



Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

NEW USE OF PLASTER OF PARIS.

Although proposing a new remedy for that most distressing and dangerous disease, epidemic asthma, may not be an agricultural topic, yet if the use of it should relieve only two out of twenty farmers who are troubled with this disorder, it cannot be said that it has done farmers no good. We will here premise that we have not tried this remedy, and know nothing practically in regard to its remedial powers.

We send the story of its use around, with a view to have it tried by the suffering who have as yet obtained nothing to relieve them. We find it communicated to the Boston Medical Journal, by J. P. Root, M. D., of New Hartford, Conn. He gives two cases, as follows:

"Some three years since I was called to see a severe case of epidemic asthma, in the person of a young lady of eighteen years. After going through with the articles commonly used in such cases, with but little effect, I accidentally hit upon the use of 'plaster of Paris,' in mixture, with almost magic like result.

The only thing previous to this that gave her much relief, was the smoking of stramonium leaves. Since using the plaster, however, she has been constantly improving. In fact, for the last two years or more, she has nearly forgotten what formerly alarmed not only herself and friends, but troubled her physicians. I have used this article ever since with similar results.

About two months since I was called to witness the agony of a little girl of twelve years, lately moved into this vicinity—more to console her friends than to relieve the sufferer, as they had given up the idea of ever seeing her cured, or even made better; for, to use their expression, they had "been to all the doctors and they didn't do her any good." She had not been in a recumbent position for a week. I immediately commenced the use of my favorite remedy, with results as before.

The mixture should be prepared similar to lime water, and used freely, diluted in water or milk, on each recurrence of the asthma.

Dr. Root goes on to say that he is in the habit of prescribing for his asthmatic patients, cold sponging about the neck and chest every morning, followed by brisk friction.

The readers of the farmer will see that a trial of this remedy will not involve much expense. Throw a handful of plaster into water. It will take about seven hundred parts of the water to dissolve one part of the plaster. That is, seven hundred grains, or ounces of the water, will dissolve one grain or ounce of the plaster.

Having attended to the human patient, let us consider it agriculturally, and enquire if it would not be useful for horses that have the heaves. We consider the two diseases analogous, if not identical in character. We also consider them to originate in a peculiar condition of the stomach. Some years ago we noticed that "heavy horses," as they are called, were enormous eaters, and we have been surprised by some men who have occasional attacks of asthma, that previous to the recurrence of the attack their appetite increases, and they eat much more than at other times. We have also known heavy horses much relieved by drinking water from a tub in which lime had been thrown.

Try the plaster of Paris water for them.

Query. Did you ever know an animal that chewed the cud have the heaves? We never did, and hence we think that our position is correct, viz: that these diseases originate in the stomach. The lungs of the ox and those of the horse vary but little in structure. Their stomachs vary very much indeed. The ox chews his food over a second time, and it is very perfectly digested. The horse chews his food but once, and it is not so perfectly digested as that of the ox. The horse has the heaves—the ox does not.

We throw these hints out for physicians to think of at their leisure.

CONCORD GRAPES AND HOVEY'S MAGAZINE OF HORTICULTURE.

In our advertising columns you will find a notice of Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture. This is the oldest Magazine of the kind in the United States, having reached its 20th volume. It is the only one published in New England. Its Editor, C. M. Hovey, is well known as an enterprising and energetic horticulturist, having, in company with his brother, a large nursery in Cambridgeport, Mass. This Magazine contains the results of the experiments of many of the best horticulturalists in New England, and has been instrumental in introducing to the acquaintance of very many, some of the best fruits now cultivated among us.

The number for this month contains a drawing and description of a splendid new grape, which was first raised by Mr. E. W. Bull, of Concord, Mass. It was fruited for the first time four years ago, and has ever since proved itself a fruit grape—the vine being hardy and the fruit large, and ripening by the 10th of September, which proves it to be much earlier than the Isabella. Mr. Hovey describes it thus: *branch large, long, neither compact nor loose, handsomely shouldered; berries roundish, large, three-quarters of an inch in diameter, sometimes measuring an inch; skin thin, very dark, covered with a thick blue bloom; flesh very juicy, nearly or quite free from pulp; flavor rich, saccharine and sprightly; vine vigorous, making strong wood; leaves very large, thick, strongly serrated, not much lobed, and woolly beneath.*

The quantity of air passing through the lungs of a man of ordinary size, every twenty-four hours, has been found to be 205 cubic feet, of which 204 cubic feet are changed into carbonic acid gas.

AGRICULTURE IN COMMON SCHOOLS.

Mr. Editor:—Circumstances with me were such that I was unable to attend the Farmers' Convention; but I have read with interest the report of their doings, and also those of the Board of Agriculture. Prominent among the subjects that were before those bodies for discussion, claiming a large share of their attention, is that of Agricultural Education; and it would seem that a new interest is springing up, and is beginning to be felt by the farmers of our State relative to this subject. I am heartily glad it is so, and hope to see this interest spread till it shall become general, and the Maine farmers, especially, shall have secured the full advantages of what is so intimately connected with their best interests, and their prosperity, namely, an enlightened agriculture.

But how is this to be brought about? What steps are to be taken for its accomplishment? This is of what I have now to speak; and by the way, Mr. Editor, why cannot we have an expression of the minds of the intelligent farmers of the State on this subject, made through the Farmer—no matter if it amounts to a discussion of the "ways and means." It will add the more interest and perhaps give the more light, and this is what we want at the commencement of this movement.

The resolve passed at the Farmers' Convention contemplated, as I rightly understand it, the introduction of agriculture into our common schools as a distinct department of study. This I think quite objectionable. The object of our common school system is a general one, and the knowledge diffused by this system is general, also; not confined to any particular vocation or avocation, but alike applicable to all. The introduction of any study or studies into our common schools, which are intended to fit those pursuing them for any particular profession, will be an infringement upon the general purpose of their design. It would be as much in accordance with the design of common schools to introduce the elements of physics or law, as of agriculture. Such studies cannot be of universal application, and hence their inappropriateness. Agriculture, for instance, although it might be generally studied in the rural districts, yet would be unequalled for in cities and large villages; commerce, navigation and the like, would be preferred. But, more than all, suppose for once it is introduced into our schools, will it be practically taught, even if teachers are required to be qualified in this branch of knowledge? Here lies the great difficulty in introducing this or any other branch of professional knowledge into our common schools. Many of our teachers have no practical knowledge of what they would be required to instruct others in, having never lived on a farm, and the largest proportion of them being females, too, who in this country have nothing to do with cultivating the soil. How can they be expected to teach it advantageously? They would be presumed to know about as much about farming as do those scheming politicians, some of whom were at the late convention, who watch every new movement, hoping to make a hobby of it on which to ride into public favor, and who at a farmers' meeting will prate about the felicities of a farmer's life, and the untold advantages he would derive from a scientific knowledge of his pursuit, while at home they have not a "brood mare" they can call their own, or rather that they will or can. When Mr. Editor, will such persons learn to watch over the interests of their own professions, if any they have, and let intelligent, practical farmers attend to theirs? They would do well to read the remarks of Prof. Mapes on this subject, in his address before one of the agricultural societies of Pennsylvania. But this is a digression.

The amount of elementary and practical knowledge that would be thus obtained would be very small, and might in the end result in a permanent injury, inasmuch as many would rest contented with the small amount of superficial knowledge thus obtained—for superficial it must be—and would never make an effort to advance any further.

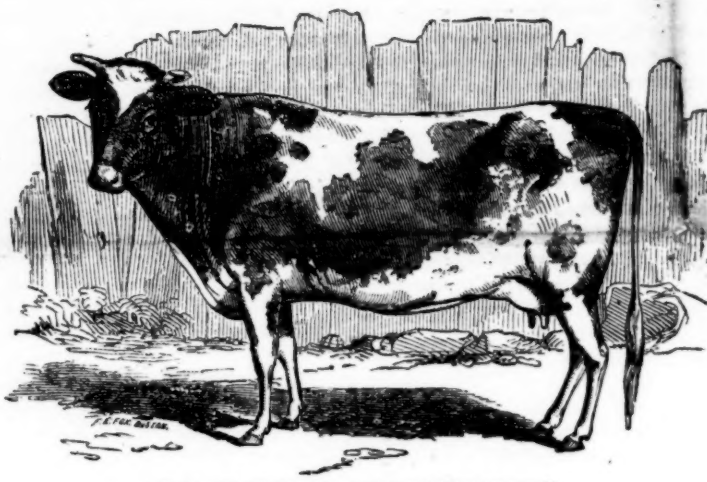
The resolve of the Board of Agriculture takes more nearly, I think, the right ground with regard to the subject, or at least, may be so construed. The introduction of those elementary studies which are of general application in science, such as chemistry, botany, and geology, and which are particularly applicable in the science of agriculture, is what we want rather than the application of any of these to particular departments of knowledge. The general principles which these statistics embody should be understood by all intending to teach, and such qualifications would be reasonably required of them, and an elementary knowledge of these several sciences would lay the foundation for their more extended and particular application; leaving the latter in this case to be carried out by the institutes and schools of agriculture. In this way the ultimate object had in view would be attained, and the design of the common school would in no way be interfered with, but on the contrary, extended.

Far be it from me to say or do anything that shall hinder the progress of scientific knowledge in agriculture, but let us in the beginning seek out the best and most proper way of advancing it, so that we may not throw away years in useless toil and experiments, and then have to adopt some new method.

Farm Hill, Feb. 10th, 1854.

BLOOD URINE. A correspondent asked some time ago a remedy for this complaint in cattle. Another correspondent, whose communication appeared in the Farmer of September 22d, 1853, recommended the following. Give the animal, once in two days, in a quart of water, a table spoonful of nitric acid.

PAPER FROM WOOD. A patent has been granted in France for making paper from wood. The inventor uses no chemical agents whatever; mechanical action suffices to reduce the fibres into a pulp, from which excellent paper can be made.



Portrait of the Jersey Cow "Buttercup."

THE JERSEY COW.

As this breed of cows is making some noise in the world, as well as some butter, and as we know of none of them in Maine, we would call the attention of our farmers to the subject. It is an object for every farmer to have cows that will yield the greatest amount of butter or cheese, or both at the least cost. The advocates of this breed, contend that for yielding large amounts of excellent butter, there is no breed of cows equal to the Jersey, or, as they are frequently called Alderney cow.

They should probably be called the "Improved Jersey Cow," as they are a breed derived from improvements made on the "old fashioned" cow, kept on the island of Jersey, in the English Channel. This old fashioned cow, as we may believe Yount's account of it was an ill-formed cow, a tender, homely creature, but famous for giving exceedingly rich milk, though but little of it.

A gentleman residing on that island, by the name of Le Couteur, who was a Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen of England, and Viscount of the Isle of Jersey, and of course a man having the means to aid him in his good endeavors, undertook to improve this breed and succeeded to admiration.

These therefore who on hearing about Alderney and Jersey cows, look into Yount's description of it, must remember that he is reading about a breed that has "stepped out," and is no more like the present improved breed than Hyperion to a Satyr.

Through the kindness of Wm. S. King, Esq., Editor of the Journal of Agriculture and the Journal of the United States Agricultural Society, we are enabled to give you the above excellent and correct portrait of the Jersey cow, imported by Samuel Henshaw, Esq., of Boston. We say correct, because it was taken by Daguerreotype; and we also give you extracts from a very interesting article on this breed of cattle by Mr. King, in the last named Journal.

The daguerreotype from which the drawing was made, does her the injustice of increasing the size of her head; (because from the position in which the cow was taken, the head was necessarily nearer to the instrument, than other parts of the animal); but in other respects, the picture is perfect. Her bag, not yet springing, is seen to be capacious and well formed. It extends well down upon her belly, and is wide, and well up behind. The milk-vein (so called) that indicate a large secretion of milk, is large, and appear like cables; in this development, she exceeds every other animal of the breed we ever saw, and equals the best Durhams. Her tail is fine, and well set on. Hips, wide, and square with the back. Barrel, broad and roomy. Neck, straight and well set to the shoulder. Head, small, fine, and clean. Eyes, full and gazel-like in expression. Ears, small, thin and of a deep orange color within.

The following letter from Mr. Henshaw, will be read with interest:

"My first importation of cows was on July, 1850, and consisted of the Cow 'Butter Cup,' then five years old, and the Heifer 'Daisy,' then three years old; they were both selected at a high cost, by a most competent and critical judge, out of one of the finest herds on the Island—'Butter Cup' having been the first prize cow at the preceding agricultural show in Jersey.

"My second importation (July, 1852) embraced the Cow 'Daphne,' five years old; the Heifer 'Dora,' twenty-two months, and 'Violet,' eighteen months.

"I have not had a fair opportunity to test the milking qualities of my first importation. The cow 'Butter Cup' was, owing to rough weather, badly bruised on the passage, and arrived in a weak condition. She slipped her calf in December, 1850, her time being out in Feb. 7, and commenced, by giving eight quarts of milk on day alone, which increased to sixteen quarts on grass in May and June. The last year, (1851), to gratify some of our Norfolk County Agricultural friends, I sent some of my cows for exhibition to their Show. The consequence was the loss of another calf by 'Butter Cup,' with the same results as to her milk as the preceding year.

"Daisy," has dropped two fine calves in February, '51 and '52 and has given, at her best flow in May and June, sixteen quarts on grass. "Daphne" was dry when she arrived, and will drop a calf next month. "Dora" calved in September, (when two years old) and "Violet" in October, (when twenty months old) and now gives ten or eleven quarts of milk daily on ordinary feed. I ought to say, that I never give my cows any grain. My custom is to give them good hay, and clean water, with one peck of corn per diem towards Spring—always feeding regularly, keeping them clean and warm during the cold months. One word only as to my Bull, 'Sailor.' He was dropped on shipboard by cow bought with my first importation, that cost in Jersey thirty-five pounds—the mother dying on the passage. I remain truly yours,

SAMUEL HENSHAW.

One of the finest herds of Jersey Cattle, in the country, belongs to Rowell L. Colt, of Patterson, N. J., and few men in America have acquired such extensive experience of the several breeds. From a letter which he addressed to us, some time since, we make the following extracts:—

any that are left behind. Besides, the remark of Rowell L. Colt, in this paper—that the animals raised in this country (from imported stock) are superior to the imported, is worthy of consideration. In the first place, they are acclimated; and, again, they are unstrained and uninjured by a sea voyage.

The best and largest herds of Jersey Cattle, owned in America, to our knowledge, are in the hands of the following individuals:—Rowell L. Colt, Patterson, New Jersey; John A. Taintor, Hartford, Conn.; Samuel Henshaw, Boston, Mass.; and Thomas Motley Jr.; Jamaica Plains, Mass.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE DAIRY.

DEAR SIR:—Any one who hath a good cow hath both victuals and drink. But are there not more poor cows than good ones? We suppose that a cow which makes a pound of butter a day, through the season of butter making, is a good one; one that will make a pound and a half is much better, and one that comes up to two pounds per day is an extra cow. The amount of butter obtained from cows depends almost wholly upon the pasture and feed they get. One man thinks he does pretty well by his cow, if he turns her into a pasture every morning, without troubling himself whether it has the right kind of feed in it or not, or whether the cow has either water or shade, both of which are necessary to the comfort of the animal. But some men regard shade in pastures of too much importance. He turns his cows into a pasture of some 50 or 60 acres, with scarcely 5 acres of grazing land in the lot, the rest covered with bushes. Another man is more scrupulous; he not only sees that his cows have a plenty of good feed, and good water, and convenient shade, but also a measure of shorts, and a handful of salt, and other nutritious materials to match. As a matter of course, the last named eye will do much better than the former, and he considered a better cow, even if she should not be so naturally. Different breeds of cows have had at different times, their friends and advocates, but after a little experience in some of the different breeds, we have found that none of them are uniformly good milkers, when among them all there often come up some extra milkers. The great object of breeders of cattle, has been for the purposes of beef and draft, milk has been a secondary object with them—too much for butcher and not much for butter.

How well they would have succeeded had they studied into the physiological requirements, necessary to a good milker, and bred for years in accordance with those requirements I cannot say, undoubtedly there would have been a great improvement in cows, in this respect. The dairying business, I consider second to none for the farmer, when rightly managed; for two seasons past butter in this vicinity has sold readily for 20 cts. per pound, at least we could dispose of all of ours at that price, although some farmers find it difficult to sell their butter even at any price. The first requisites necessary for a good dairy, are good cows, second a good pasture of red and white clover, thirdly, cows to have salt often, and a good supply of pure water, and lastly, but not not least, a good dairy maid or woman, without which no one can be very successful in making good butter.

The term "Alderney," as applied to this breed is, as we have herebefore stated, a misnomer. The original Alderneys are a race of every respect inferior to those which are bred in the island of Alderney, as well as on Jersey, from the improved Jersey stock.

Col. Le Couteur, Aid-de-Camp to the Queen of England, and Viscount of the Isle of Jersey, is undoubtedly the highest living authority upon the history and merits of this breed, and has probably done more for any other man to improve them and bring them into notice. He declares that the true Jersey Cattle were introduced into the Island of Alderney by his great grandfather, to whom it belonged; but that, owing to the inferiority of the pasture, they soon deteriorated from the original stock. It is very possible, and indeed probable, that Yount and others may have taken their ideas of the breed from this deteriorated stock; for, as Col. Le Couteur further remarks, many animals are passed off as the true Jersey breed, which were very inferior to the genuine animals of that breed. The time has gone by when we can attempt to revert to the original name, with any chance of success; but we may bring forward the good qualities of the original race, and fasten them upon their true and undegenerate descendants.

Whether Yount and other writers were right or wrong at the time they wrote, or whether they got hold of the right or the wrong animal to "sit" for the picture they drew, we do not take upon ourselves to decide; nor is it of much consequence. The animal which we have in America under this name, is one which we should commend to all who value good milk for family use. They appear to give a handsome quantity of the choicest milk, and do not exhibit that voracious appetite for which they have had a reputation.

A friend who has made many importations of cattle has furnished us with the following bill of expenses, for two heifers imported about a year ago:—

For hay and other provisions,	£9 9 3
Expenses from Jersey to Liverpool,	11 3 0
Keeping in Liverpool (one week),	2 3 6
House on board ship,	6 10 0
Commission, &c.,	17 8
	£30 3 5
Freight £10. Primage, 10s.	10 10 0
	£40 13 5

This is a few pence short of \$200. The freight on these two animals (\$50) is about one half the usual charge. Primage, is an allowance made to the master or hands of a vessel for loading. Almost all the other charges it will be seen, are exorbitant.

There is no reason, now, why any one, (except one owning a herd, and desiring a fresh strain of blood,) should import. We have here, already, animals of every English breed equal to

AN ODE.

There is a Giant, strong and brave,
And generous as great,
Who for the feeble race of men
Doth early toll and late.
He doleth in the murky mine,
And on the furrowed loam;
And, with his vessels built of oak,
He plows the stormy sea.
The forest falls beneath his arm,
And cities vast arise;
And verdant fields look smiling up
To greet the smiling skies.
He builds the mansion towering high,
And fills to overflowing both,
With all the heart can cheer.
He chains the streamlet to the wheel,
And bids it turn the mill;
He harnesses the iron horse,
And guides him at his will.
His powerful arm defends the weak,
Against all overpowering wrong;
And grateful hearts conspire to praise
The Giant, great and strong.
Fair hands have twined a wreath to deck
His rugged brow with bay,
And we, with joy, have met to keep
His festival to-day.
Then farmers, artisans and all
Who earn your task to-day,
Come, join your song with ours to sing
The mighty Giant, Woe!

LIGHT FOR ANIMALS.

We are often impressed with the gross neglect of otherwise intelligent men, in not securing abundant light for animal life. To the animal his cows into a pasture of some 50 or 60 acres, with scarcely 5 acres of grazing land in the lot, the rest covered with bushes. Another man is more scrupulous; he not only sees that his cows have a plenty of good feed, and good water, and convenient shade, but also a measure of shorts, and a handful of salt, and other nutritious materials to match. As a matter of course, the last named eye will do much better than the former, and he considered a better cow, even if she should not be so naturally. Different breeds of cows have had at different times, their friends and advocates, but after a little experience in some of the different breeds, we have found that none of them are uniformly good milkers, when among them all there often come up some extra milkers. The great object of breeders of cattle, has been for the purposes of beef and draft, milk has been a secondary object with them—too much for butcher and not much for butter.

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THE NEXT CROP.
The following article we find in the New York Tribune, on a subject which it is now time to consider, and which may be of value to some of our many agricultural readers:

The indentments held out to farmers to plant a large spring crop were never more flattering than at the present time. Wheat is higher this day than ever known before in New York, and so of all other grain. And these large prices are not entirely the result of speculation, based upon European war news. Independent of the war demand, there is a scarcity of breadstuffs abroad, which has already drawn off the surplus of our crops, until the price is affected by the natural law of demand and supply. The supply having become exhausted, and the great American granary, in a measure emptied, the world calls upon the farmers to refill it. There is another demand for grain besides the foreign one, which will prevent prices from receding below the paying point for several years to come, and that is for the immense number of hands employed in building railroads. These works cannot be suddenly stopped, no matter what the pressure may be upon the money or grain market, because to stop them would be ruin to the capitalists. When a current one forms a channel, it is difficult to turn its course. The products of the American farmer have lately fallen into a channel, where the current of trade is sweeping them onward to marts before unknown, producing prices before unthought of. We therefore consider our country friends to prepare for a great spring crop. Let them sow all the oats they can get into the ground in good order, in proper season; then plant corn upon every acre in good condition which can be devoted to that crop. Let them also sow buckwheat, turnips, and corn for fodder, so that they can sell a large portion of all the grain produced.

At the West, and particularly in Southern Michigan, Northern Indiana and Illinois, spring wheat is more extensively sown than the winter variety. Farmers in that region should not neglect the present opportunity to make a paying crop of this grain. Spring wheat sown early, rarely fails upon a prairie farm, where winter wheat is very uncertain. If possible, it should be sown in February; at any rate March should not pass before this crop is put in, even if it is necessary to wade over shoes in mud to do it. We have seen forty-five bushels per acre of spring wheat, though the usual crop is far below that, mainly owing to the very bad treatment it receives at the hands of the farmer.

Beans and peas, it will be seen, are quoted at \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bushel. Both of these are spring crops, and may be grown with profit upon almost any farm in the country. Lastly, look at the price of potatoes, which are now selling at \$3.50 per barrel—more per bushel than corn, and more than what in ordinary years. With grain high, as it certainly will be next season, potatoes will continue to sell at high rates after the next crop comes to perfection. Farmers should make a note of this in time for spring operations. Let them plant largely. Let spring be a paying one. We add, that they should not plant or sow anything, especially in any part of the Eastern States, without manure. If a farmer has not enough upon his own farm, let him buy guano, superphosphate of lime, ground bones, salt, nitrate of soda, potash, or some of the concentrated fertilizers which are sold now as commonly as the seeds to be planted.

One of the greatest wants of this country at this moment is capital, to employ in producing food and raw materials of manufacture from American soil. No branch of business suffers so much for the lack of capital as farming. Farmers complain of the poor compensation they get for their labor. They say that they work harder, live coarser, and enjoy fewer of the luxuries and refinements of life, than any other class of men—all of which we are willing to concede, while we insist that it is because they do not employ capital. They only work to live—work with their own hands, and not, like the manufacturer, with machinery and means furnished by the power of capital. It is equally true that many men own large tracts of land, lying comparatively idle and waste, because they cannot cultivate them alone, and do not see the advantage of employing others to do it for them. It is this class that we more particularly desire to wake up to their own interests, by showing them that the prices of farm products will not fall far below their present level until after the production of another crop. Therefore, we repeat the counsel—Plow early, sow early and plant largely next spring!

WHERE THE BEST TEA GOES TO. It has been remarked by travellers that tea brought overland by the Russians is far superior to the article which we receive by sea. Some say that the tea from the Russians is produced by better districts than those which supply us, while others attribute the difference to its being carried by land, and not exposed to the deteriorating effects of a sea voyage. We are disposed to believe in the latter explanation, for some overland tea we drank at Constantinople had lost a great part of its flavor when brought by sea from that place to London—a comparatively short voyage, and during which much care had been taken of the sample. But whatever be the cause, the fact remains indisputable: the tea brought from China by the Russians is far superior to ours.

[China, Pictorial, Descriptive and Historical.

WINTER GARDENING. There are a few golden rules to be observed during the winter, of which may be enumerated the following: Water all plants that require it in the morning; leave no water in the saucer of any plant after the whole has become saturated through; never water by dribs, but give the whole a good soaking, or the consequence often is, that the top of the mould is wetted, while the lower, containing the roots, is dry; sponge over the foliage as often as it becomes dusty; take a pointed stick, and once in a while stir the surface of the soil, but not deep enough to disturb the roots, this acts the same part as hoeing in summer, and tends vastly to the health of the plant. Give each plant as much space as you can for air to circulate around it, if possible; let it have the benefit of a little pure fresh air at times. [Country Gentleman.

THE AMERICAN THRESHING MACHINE IN EUROPE. The well known Mr. Mechi has sent the following letter to the British Agricultural Gazette:—

"As I got some half dozen letters daily from the subject of the American threshing machine, I had better at once state that I have threshed more than 1000 qrs. of wheat and 50 qrs. of barley with it, and that it is, in my opinion; a very respect for superior to our English threshing machines, as exhibited at the great shows. Although a very light implement on carriage wheels, its steadiness under steam power indicates the easy movements of all its parts, and it must be a very enduring machine. All its parts work continuously on the rotary or revolving principle, the only exceptions being two very light proportions; whereas, in our great clumsy threshing machines, the jerking or checking movements away them, in spite of their great weight, in a most destructive, power consuming manner. In cleansing and dressing powers we have nothing, in my opinion, to compare with it."

SPONGE-TREE. There is a tree in Mexico called the *chijal*, a very fine wood, which according to a writer in the National Intelligencer (W. D. Porter) becomes petrified after being cut, and in a very few years, whether left in the open air or buried. From this timber, houses could be built that would in a few years become fire-proof, and last as long as those built of stone. The wood, in a green state, is easily worked; it is used in building wharves, forts, &c., and would be very good as railway-sleepers, or for plank-roads. [Pacific (San Francisco paper.)

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THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1864.

REPORT ON THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

This report has been some time on the table. The trustees report that the repairs of the Hospital, which were rendered necessary by the destructive fire three years since, have been completed. The building is now more commodious than before, many improvements having been made.

The building is reported to be now well ventilated and warmed, hot water being used for the latter purpose. The plan of the fixtures for doing which, were communicated by Dr. Luther S. Bell, of the McLean Asylum in Massachusetts. There are now 62 male patients, and accommodation for as many more, but the north wing is not sufficient to give all the female patients such accommodation as they ought to have, and they therefore recommend that an additional wing be constructed.

They also state that there is one great and important want which has never been adequately supplied, viz: an abundance of pure water. They say that "a powerful fountain was purchased many years since, and an aqueduct laid to it. The spring was abundant, but only a portion of the water would flow through it to the Hospital.

The commissioners supposed the difficulty to arise from the undulating nature of the grounds, and that air discharged from the water would accumulate in the upper portions of the pipe, and prevent the free passage of the water. They therefore had the ground carefully surveyed by a competent Engineer, and a pipe was laid that there was a continuous descent from the fountain to the Hospital. The water at the Hospital was thus increased some, but at times is inadequate, although the fountain continues to overflow.

A friend at our elbow asks how large the pipe is which was laid down? By turning to the report of the Superintendent, we see that it is 14 inches, and that he thinks it to be three inches—and so do we, and it is larger than that it would be better yet. A lesson might be taken from the Croton works at New York, and the Cochituate works in Boston, which would show them how to bring any volume of water a half a mile, or any required distance where the fountain is, as the trustees say "higher than the roof of the building to which they wish to bring it." The trustees believe the "difficulty to arise from the ground, for forty or fifty rods from the spring, being nearly level, so that there is no head to overcome the friction." If that be the case, all that will be necessary, is to lay a large conduit, or covered culvert, or to dig an open canal for that distance, either of which will in effect bring the fountain forward to that point, from which it will push its way down with a rush, provided nevertheless the pipe or conduit be large enough.

The trustees conclude their report by remarks respecting the risk, and oftentimes unfortunate results of moving patients of unsound minds from the asylum. Mr. Turner, who has been a faithful steward for many years, has resigned the station, and Mr. Theodore C. Allen, has been appointed to officiate as his successor.

He reports that the receipts and resources amounted to \$9,759.75, and the liabilities contracted during the year, to be \$24,242, leaving a balance of \$5,503.33.

The superintendent in his report gives a very satisfactory account of the condition of the asylum, and the results of the operations there during the past year. The following extracts will be interesting to many of our readers who do not receive the whole report.

There were in the Hospital on the 30th of November, 1862, eighty-four patients—fifty males and thirty-four females. One hundred and twenty-four have been received during the year—sixty-five males and fifty-nine females; making a total of two hundred and eighty-eight patients under treatment. Of these, eighty-nine have been discharged—fifty-four males and thirty-five females; forty-five of which were recovered—twenty-eight males and seventeen females; fourteen were improved—eight males and six females; fifteen were unimproved—seven males and eight females; and eleven males and four females have died. Consequently there now remain in the Institution one hundred and ninety patients—sixty-one males and fifty-eight females; thirty-five more than there were at the commencement of the year.

Of the deaths which have occurred, four were caused by apoplexy, three by consumption, one by pneumonia, one by laryngitis, and six by general paralysis.

The civil condition of those who have been admitted, is as follows:—Thirty-one men and thirty-five women are married; thirty-three men and fifteen women are single or unmarried; one man is a widower and eight women are widows. Their extreme ages are 15 and 80—thirty-five of them are less than 20; thirty-five are over 50 and less than 60—twenty-three are over 60 and less than 70—four are over 70.

Of those forms of insanity which every one dreads and fears, (especially if they have the care of them),—the homicidal and suicidal—there have been in the Institution one and one-half cases; first opened, seventy-one of the former and one hundred and twenty-one of the latter. No accident has ever occurred from either of these homicidal cases, and only two suicides have ever been committed in the Institution—once in the winter of 1845, a period of nearly nine years. In that time there have been treated one hundred cases of both sexes in whom there existed a propensity to commit suicide. Of these, forty-five recovered and twenty-three improved, showing that insanity of a suicidal form is nearly as likely to recover as any other. But cases of homicidal insanity do not, as a general thing, recover so as to render it safe for them to be in society again, especially if they have ever committed or attempted to commit the dreadful act; and as we have said in a former report, they should always be kept within the jurisdiction of some well regulated institution for the insane.

Since the disastrous fire, the question is often asked, how is the building warmed now? It is now warmed by hot water. The mode of doing it is thus described by Dr. Harlow.

The whole apparatus for warming the entire building, except the main house, consists of four large boilers, each ten feet in length, and thirty inches in diameter, and two thousand seven hundred and seventy feet of fire iron cast iron pipe, one-half inch thick, all cast with flange joints and put together with bolts and nuts and india rubber packings. This is put up in the basement story of the wings, in four different sections, viz: One for the north wing, one for the first story, and two for the second story wing. The hot air chamber of the north wing, in which the boiler and pipes are placed is eight feet long, thirteen feet wide and seven feet high. This air chamber is partitioned off into three apartments: one for each ward or gallery. The boiler is set across the chamber at the north end and the pipes communicate with and start from the top of the boiler at three different points, one for each apartment of the ward chamber, and continue a few feet when a T is formed and two strings of pipe are attached and carried to the end of the chamber opposite

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THE MAINE LAW PASSED IN MARYLAND. The "Maine Law," so called, seems to be spreading into other States. The following is the news from Maryland, in regard to its adoption in that State.

Baltimore, Feb. 19. The liquor prohibition law passed the Maryland House of Delegates yesterday, by a vote of 42 to 29. It contains all the Maine law restrictions, including the power of search, destruction of liquor, &c., and is to go into operation in May, 1865, if previously approved by the people.

FRENCH SPOILATION BILL. The bill providing five million of dollars, we believe, to pay the long neglected demands for French spoliation, has passed the United States Senate by a vote of 27 to 15. We rejoice to hear that justice has at last made even this amount of progress. We sincerely hope it will pass the House. France paid to the United States the indemnity required for these spoliation, years and years ago, and our Government has most unrighteously kept the claimants' money ever since.

NEBRASKA MEETING. A convention of all parties will be held at Winthrop Hall, in this city, to take into consideration the proposed Nebraska bill, repealing or in other words, annulling the Missouri compromise. It will commence on the evening of Wednesday, March 1st, and continue through Thursday. All who are opposed to this infamous outrage are invited to attend.

PREPAY YOUR POSTAGE. We see that, in connection with the question of revising the present rates of postage, the Congressional committee on Post office matters have reported a bill making it necessary to prepay letter postage in all cases. We should hardly think this would work well in all cases, but it would be a good thing for printers.

A TOBACCONISTS' CONVENTION. A convention of tobaccoists met at Albany, N. Y., on Thursday last, at which Joseph Brady, of Portland in this State, presided. The object of the convention is to memorialize Congress against the increasing importation of foreign cigars. They probably go on for the protection of home manufacturers.

EMIGRATION FROM MAINE. We learn from the Transcript that a party of fifteen or twenty persons left Gardiner and Pittston, last week, for California. A number of ladies were with the party. About the same number of men also set out, at the same time, for Georgia, intending to go into the business of cutting ship timber.

DONATION PARTY. The friends of Rev. O. B. Cheney, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Society in this city, propose to hold a donation party at his house, in Chestnut street, on this (Thursday) evening. We hope he will have a house full, and receive an abundance to supply his temporal wants, for he is industrious, faithful, and deserving.

BIG OFFICERS. Franklin County boasts of raising some pretty heavy officers, and challenges the following named and weight of several of their heavy ones: Capt. Ezra Finney, of Jay, 250; Capt. Increase S. Eldridge, of Jay, 250; Capt. John Walker, of Wilton, 250; Capt. Jos. Keith, of Chesterhill, 240.

THE SARANUS AGAIN. This English steamer arrived at Portland last Sunday. She had a passage of 18 days from Liverpool. She had rough weather. She brought a part of the passengers of the steamer Charity which had put back to repair. She had 57 passengers.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY PAPER.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1864.

EDITORIAL TABLE.

Illustrated Magazine of Art. The February number of this work is received. It is a handsome number, and contains, besides the reading matter, a large number of engravings, of the highest order of the art. This magazine has now entered upon its second year. Among the new features of the present year will be a series of articles on "American Art and Artists," illustrated with portraits and engravings of our artists' chief works. There will also be other articles of a similar character, and equally interesting to the reader. The literary selections are more instructive and special than the general magazine literature, while, at the same time, they are interesting and entertaining. The number before us, among other articles, contains a short biography of John Hampden, a chapter on balloons and ballooning, an interesting letter from Australia, by Wm. Howitt, an article on the Ancient Castles in Ireland, with views of Blarney Castle, &c., and accounts of several celebrated painters, beautifully illustrated by engravings of their best works. The subscription price to this periodical is \$3.00 per annum. Published by Alex. Montgomery, 17 Spruce Street, N. Y., and Frederick Parker, 35 Washington St., Boston.

Dr. Harlow in closing gives his cordial thanks to those publishers and others, who furnish the inmates with newspapers, which are of great solace to them, and beguile them of many a weary hour.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINATION. The following summary of the proceedings of the court of inquiry, into the San Francisco disaster, during the week last past, we copy from Saturday's Boston Traveller. The examination is still proceeding, at New York.

The examination into the circumstances of the wreck of the San Francisco steamer, and particularly the conduct of Col. Gates, the commanding officer of the regiment, has been going forward during the week. The testimony thus far, goes strongly to implicate the Colonel in a charge of a want of activity and efficiency in the discharge of his duty during the wreck. The steamer, it is evident, was not in a proper condition to go to sea. She was overloaded, and terribly encumbered with the baggage of the regiment, officers and men, with their families and stores; and though her machinery gave way, it is doubtful whether she could have withstood the gale, had her machinery remained sound and in working condition. Capt. Watkins, the commander of the steamer, with the survivors of the company taken up by the Antarctic, (150 or 160 persons) arrived at this port on Thursday, in the steamer America, which was chartered to bring them home. About 50 of their number died on the Antarctic before reaching Liverpool.

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